

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

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U.S. Patent Application No. 09/766,754

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for treating floor covering, comprising:

(a) an energy source, wherein the energy source is adapted to capable of transferring heat to ~~the~~ a textile face of the floorcovering in an amount sufficient to melt a portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the textile face of the floorcovering, and

(b) structure for supporting the energy source and contacting the textile face of the floor covering while moving the energy source and floor covering relative to each other in a predetermined relationship during treatment of the textile face of the floor covering with the energy source.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for use during installation of floor covering for treating a portion of a textile face of the floor covering proximate an edge of the floor covering to change the appearance of the treated portion of the textile face of the floor covering, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a heat source, wherein the heat source is capable of adapted to transferring heat to the textile face of the floorcovering in an amount sufficient to melt a portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the textile face of the floorcovering,

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(b) structure on which the heat source is mounted for maintaining a desired relationship between the heat source and the floor covering during treatment of the textile face of the floor covering.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the heat source is a hot air gun.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the mounting structure comprises a frame to which the heat source is attached and at least one guide for contact with an edge of the floor covering.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mounting structure further comprises at least one roller for contact with the textile face of the floor covering.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the guide comprises at least one rotating member.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the guide further comprises two arms projecting from the frame on opposite sides of the heat source, and the at least one rotating member comprises two rotating members, one of which is attached to each of the two arms.

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8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the frame is adjustable to vary the position of the heat source relative to the floor covering.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the frame further comprises a heat source holder to which the heat source is attached and a frame stanchion to which the heat source holder is adjustably attached so that the holder can be positioned in a plurality of distances from the floor covering.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for treating a portion of a textile face of floor covering proximate an edge of the floor covering to change the appearance of the treated portion of the textile face of the floor covering by heating, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a base,
- (b) a plurality of rollers attached to the base for contact with the textile face of the floor covering during use of the apparatus,
- (c) two guide arms projecting from the base, each by a projection amount, and two guide bearings for contact with an edge of the floor covering during use of the apparatus, one of which guide bearings is attached to each guide arm, and
- (d) a hot air gun, wherein the hot air gun is capable of adapted to transferring heat to the treated portion of the textile face in an amount sufficient to melt the treated portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the treated portion of the textile face, wherein the hot air gun is attached to a hot air gun mount adjustably attached to the base so that the distance

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of the hot air gun from the textile face of the floor covering during use of the apparatus may be adjusted.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the guide bearings are guide rollers.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the positions of the guide bearings relative to the base are adjustable so that the position of the hot air gun relative to the edge of the floor covering during use of the apparatus is adjustable.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the projection amount of each guide arm from the base is adjustable.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the plurality of rollers comprises two rollers.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising at least one handle attached to the structure for manipulating the apparatus during use.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for changing the appearance of a portion of a textile face of floor covering during installation of the floor covering, comprising:

(a) positioning a hot air gun, wherein the hot air gun is capable of adapted to transferring heat to the textile face of the floorcovering in an amount sufficient to melt a portion of the textile

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face and thereby alter the appearance of the textile face of the floorcovering, and wherein the hot air gun is mounted on a carriage proximate an edge of the floor covering,

(b) with the hot air gun on, moving the hot air gun across the textile face of the floor covering along the edge to heat the portion of the textile face of the floor covering adjacent to the edge to change the appearance of the portion while maintaining contact between first reference structure of the carriage and the textile face of the floor covering and between second reference structure of the carriage and the edge of the floor covering.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the first reference structure comprises a plurality of rollers.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the second reference structure comprises rotatable bearings.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of installing floor covering modules having textile faces and having a "grouted edge" appearance on a floor, comprising:

(a) installing on the floor modules that can be positioned thereon without cutting the modules,

(b) cutting at least one module in the field to a size necessary to fill a position on the floor not covered by the un-cut modules and thereby complete covering of the floor after installation of the un-cut modules, and

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(c) positioning a hot air gun, wherein the hot air gun is capable of adapted to transferring heat to the textile face of the floorcovering in an amount sufficient to melt a portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the textile face of the floorcovering; and wherein the hot air gun is mounted on a carriage proximate an edge of at least one module where a “grouted edge” appearance is desired, and, with the hot air gun on, moving the hot air gun across a portion of the textile face adjacent the edge of the at least one module to heat the portion of the textile face of the at least one module adjacent to the edge and to change the appearance of the portion while maintaining contact between first reference structure of the carriage and the textile face of the at least one module and between second reference structure of the carriage and the edge of the at least one module.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

(d) installing the at least one field-cut module on the floor in the position for which such module was cut.